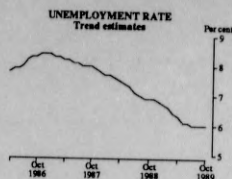


# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 16 November 1989**

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Labour force participation drops slightly in October

Participation in the labour force fell slightly in October following falls in both employment and unemployment.

The October 1989 estimate of the labour force participation rate dropped by 0.2 percentage points to 63.3 per cent (seasonally adjusted) from the September 1989 figure. The drop was made up of a small decrease of 8,000 in total employment and a slightly larger fall of 11,200 in the number of unemployed persons.

The last time that employment levels fell was in March 1989 when employment fell by 47,900 persons and the labour force participation rate dropped by a substantial 0.9 percentage points.

The drop in unemployment rates occurred in most States — the exceptions were Queensland (up 0.1%) and South Australia (up 0.9%). The October 1989 estimates of the unemployment rate in New South Wales (5.8%) & Tasmania (8.0%) are the lowest in both States since January 1982.

The female participation rate fell from its high point of 51.7 per cent in September to 51.4 per cent.

**LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES**  
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Un- employ- ment rate — per cent —	Particip- ation rate
	Full-time Workers	Part-time Workers —'000 —	Total			
1989 —						
July	6,164.6	1,584.4	7,749.0	506.5	6.1	63.2
August	6,184.0	1,616.0	7,800.0	492.3	5.9	63.4
September	6,172.0	1,641.8	7,813.8	505.4	6.1	63.5
October	6,183.5	1,622.3	7,805.8	494.2	6.0	63.3

For further information order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia*, Preliminary (6202.0) or contact Bruce McClelland (062) 52 6525

## How movie theatres are surviving video

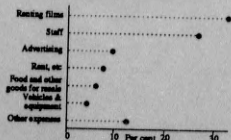
Reflecting the impact of the boom in video hire, Australia's movie theatre industry suffered a 23 per cent real decline in turnover and a 35 per cent fall in employment between 1980 and 1987.

Over the same period industry profitability fell away, and the relative importance of small businesses in the industry declined sharply. These findings are among the results of a detailed ABS study of the Motion Picture Theatre Industry, part of the 1986-87 Service Industries Survey.

There is some evidence, however, that the industry is recovering from the slump caused by competition from video hire during the mid-1980s. The turnover of businesses which operated in both 1985-86 and 1986-87 grew by about 8 per cent in real terms between those two years.

*Continued over*

**MOTION PICTURE THEATRE INDUSTRY**  
Share of operating expenses, 1986-87



Nevertheless, Australians were spending more on video hire than on going to the pictures in the mid-1980s. Takings from theatre admissions in 1986-87, at \$185 million, were well below the \$240 million spent on video hire in 1985-86 (the latest reliable figure available).

Along with the decline in the size of the industry between 1979-80 and 1986-87, there was:

- ☐ a drop in profitability — net operating surplus declined from 13 per cent to 11 per cent of turnover
- ☐ increased concentration of the industry into fewer and larger businesses — operators employing more than 20 people increased their share of industry turnover from 65 per cent to 80 per cent.

The survey shows that the industry employed about 4,500 people and had a turnover of \$256 million in 1986-87. The survey report also contains detailed statistics, graphs and tables about size and structure, the employment situation, State comparisons and other aspects of the motion picture theatre business. For example, the accompanying graph shows the relative weight of the main expenses incurred by businesses operating in the industry.

For further information, order the publication *Motion Picture Theatre Industry, Australia* (8654.0) or contact Peter White on (062) 52 5633

## Few manufacturers are using advanced technology — new survey

Only about one-third of Australia's manufacturing establishments have any of the common micro-electronic based advanced manufacturing technologies. And an even smaller proportion plan to invest significant sums on advanced technology in the immediate future.

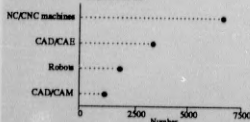
These are among the findings in the new ABS publication *Manufacturing Technology Statistics, Australia, 30 June 1988, Summary* which contains results of a sample survey of 6,500 of the nation's 16,000 manufacturing establishments with 10 or more employees. The survey results include details of actual and planned acquisitions by manufacturers of 19 selected micro-electronic based technologies (including robots, lasers, computer-aided design and engineering, automated material handling and electronic communications).

The survey results show that:

- ☐ The most commonly acquired advanced manufacturing technology was *programmable logic controllers*, with about 14 per cent of manufacturing establishments having them in June 1988. However, only 2 per cent had *simple pick and place robots* and only one per cent had a *flexible manufacturing cell or system*.
- ☐ In terms of the technologies surveyed, the other machinery and equipment industry (which includes scientific and professional equipment, electrical appliances, etc.) was the most advanced, with an estimated 56 per cent of manufacturers in this industry having one or more of the surveyed technologies.

*Continued over*

SELECTED TECHNOLOGIES USED  
IN MANUFACTURING  
Number of dedicated workstations  
at June 1988



NC/CNC — standalone fabrication, machining or assembly machines either numerically, or computer numerically controlled

Robots — includes simple pick and place robots as well as the more complex robots used for welding, assembly, etc.

CAD/CAM — computer-aided design workstations with output used to control manufacturing machines

CAD/CAE — CAD and computer-aided engineering workstations

- The proportion of manufacturing establishments without any of the surveyed technologies which planned to acquire particular technologies in the future was generally low. For example, only 11 per cent planned to acquire computer aided design (CAD) technologies within five years and only 4 per cent aimed to get simple pick and place robots.
- Planned 1988-89 expenditure on technologies surveyed was also low, with only 9 per cent of manufacturing establishments planning to spend over \$100,000. Firms without any advanced technology were far less likely to invest in it than those which already had installed some.

#### PROPORTION OF MANUFACTURERS WITH SELECTED TECHNOLOGIES, JUNE 1988

Industry	Percentage of establishments with:	
	Selected technologies	Planned expenditure in 1988-89 of over \$100,000 on selected technologies
Food, beverages & tobacco	28	7
Textiles	34	15
Clothing & footwear	15	6
Wood, wood products & furniture	23	6
Paper, paper products, printing & publishing	21	7
Chemical, petroleum & coal products	43	14
Non-metallic mineral products	41	11
Basic metal products	50	23
Fabricated metal products	31	7
Transport equipment	47	17
Other machinery & equipment	56	19
Miscellaneous manufacturing	34	9
Total manufacturing	33	9

For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Technology Statistics, Australia, Summary (8123.0)* or contact Sheridan Roberts on (062) 52 5617

## National education levels on the increase

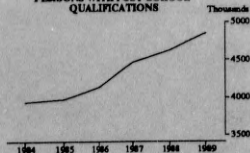
Almost one half of all people working in Australia now have some form of post-school qualification.

And the employment advantages enjoyed by those who do continue studying after leaving school are demonstrated by the latest (February 1989) survey of Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment.

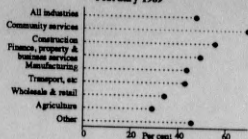
For the fourth consecutive year there has been an increase in the proportion of the population who have gained an educational qualification since leaving secondary school. The proportion is estimated at 38 per cent of all persons aged 15 or over, an increase of 4 per cent since February 1985. Among employed people, however, the proportion is 47 per cent — 3.5 million people out of a total employed workforce of 7.5 million.

*Continued over*

PERSONS WITH POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS



PROPORTION OF EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH  
POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS  
February 1989



The 1989 survey shows that 73 per cent of people with post-school qualifications were employed, compared with only 53 per cent of those whose education finished at secondary school level or less.

People with post-school qualifications had a lower unemployment rate (4.5%) than those without post-school qualifications (9.1%) and spent, on average, about 10 weeks' less time looking for work. Survey figures also show that there were 1,149,500 people with post-school qualifications who were not active in the labour force in February 1989 — 61 per cent of these were women.

Within the employed workforce figure of 47 per cent, over 70 per cent of people employed in the Community services industry reported having post-school qualifications, while at the other end of the scale, only 29 per cent of workers in Agriculture reported such qualifications.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, FEBRUARY 1989  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total
With post-school qualifications	3,537	166	1,150	4,853
Without post-school qualifications	3,834	385	2,979	7,197
Still at school	145	37	386	568
<b>Total persons aged 15 and over</b>	<b>7,515</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>12,618</b>

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0) or contact Nicole Wittmann on (062) 52 6578

## Record rise in low alcohol beer consumption

Apparent consumption of low alcohol beer increased by a record 35.5 per cent to 16.4 litres per person in 1988-89. Consumption of the low alcohol product had risen by only 5.2 per cent in 1987-88.

As the consumption of low alcohol beer soared, there was a fall in the consumption of other beer (down 2.1%) and wine (down 7.3%) in 1988-89. Despite the high rise in low alcohol beer consumed in 1988-89, it still accounted for less than 15 per cent of total beer consumption. The apparent per capita consumption of alcohol in terms of alcohol content fell by 1.3 per cent to 8.5 litres during the year.

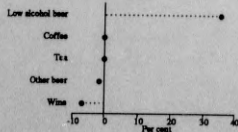
These trends in Australians' approach to liquor are among the preliminary estimates of per capita consumption of foodstuffs now available for 1988-89. Foodstuffs covered include beef, lamb, poultry and dairy products.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF BEVERAGES

		1987-88	1988-89
Tea	kg	1.2	1.2
Coffee	"	2.1	2.1
Aerated and carbonated waters	litres	80.0	85.7
Beer — low alcohol	"	12.1	16.4
Other beer	"	98.7	96.7
Wine	"	20.6	19.1

For further information, order the publication *Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Australia, Preliminary* (4315.0), or contact Maureen Miller on (062) 52 5329

APPARENT PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION  
OF BEVERAGES, 1988-89  
Annual change



## Inquiries

The ABS supplies statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

- ☒ PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
- ☎ (062) 52 6627
- FAX (062) 53 1404

### ABS State Offices

- ☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
- Vic. (03) 615 7000
- Qld (07) 222 6351
- WA (09) 323 5140
- SA (08) 237 7100
- Tas. (002) 20 5800
- NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

The Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(062) 52 6917

**Statistics Weekly**  
16 November 1989

## All the week's releases: 8 to 14 November

### General

Statistics Weekly, 9 November 1989 (1318.0; \$3.50)

### Demography

Deaths, Aust., 1988 (3302.0; \$10.50)

Demography: Small Area Summary, Qld, 1988 (3309.3; \$10.50)

Age and Sex Distribution of Estimated Resident Population — Data on Floppy Disk — Technical Details and Explanatory Notes, June 1988 (3217.3; \$60.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, September 1989 (5433.0; \$7.50)

Commercial Finance, Aust., August 1989 (5643.0; \$4.50)

State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, June Qtr 1989 Survey (5646.0; \$7.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1989, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.00)

Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Aust., February 1989 (6235.0; \$11.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1989 (6271.0; \$60.00)

Employment Injuries, Qld, 1987-88 (6301.3; \$11.50)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Technology Statistics, Aust., 30 June 1988, Summary (8123.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, September 1989 (8504.0; \$4.50)

Motion Picture Theatre Industry, Aust., 1986-87 (8654.0; \$7.50) — *new issue*

Building Approvals, Qld, September 1989 (8731.3; \$8.00)

Census of Manufacturing Establishments: Industry and Area Data, WA, 1987-88 (8202.5; \$7.50)

Census of Manufacturing Establishments: Selected Items of Data Classified by Industry and Employment Size, WA, 1986-87 (8203.5; \$7.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, August 1989, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., August 1989 (8741.6; \$6.50)

Tourist Accommodation, NT, October 1989, Preliminary (8646.7; \$3.00)

### Transport

Road Traffic Accidents, Qld, 1988 (9406.3; \$11.50)



## Calendar of key releases

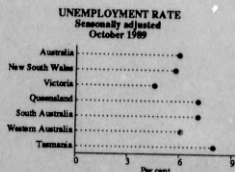
Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 November

### November

- 16** Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., August Qtr 1989, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.00)  
Retail Trade, Aust., September 1989 (8501.0; \$8.00)
- 23** Balance of Payments, Aust., October 1989 (5301.0; \$10.00)
- 27** Export Price Index, Aust., September 1989 (6405.0; \$4.50)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., October 1989, Preliminary (9301.0; \$3.25)
- 28** Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1990, September Qtr 1989 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$3.25)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1989 (6407.0; \$8.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1989 (6408.0; \$3.25)  
Production Statistics, Aust., October 1989, Preliminary (8301.0; \$4.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
14 November 1989



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 89)*	20.8	11.7	13.1	3.5	6.3	78.0	n.a.	n.a.	15.9
Retail turnover (Aug. 89) (trend estimate)	14.6	5.2	9.4	7.1	13.0	10.1	n.a.	6.0	10.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 89)*	-2.2	51.6	-3.7	16.4	0.7	n.a.	7.0	82.7	13.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 89)	-14.7	-27.0	-38.9	-6.0	-38.1	-31.4	-47.5	52.5	-26.7
Value of total building work done (June 89)	38.6	42.1	34.4	22.9	54.9	17.4	-8.5	-3.0	36.8
Employed persons (Oct. 89)*	3.2	5.6	6.6	3.2	4.3	5.6	0.1	5.3	4.6
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 89)	8.1	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.0	5.6	8.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 89)	9.0	6.6	7.7	6.9	8.0	8.2	5.6	6.6	7.8
Population (June 89)	1.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.2	1.6	1.6
Room occupancy rates in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Mar. qtr 89)	1.5	-0.7	-3.2	1.0	2.9	4.1	-2.7	-7.6	-1.1

\* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 14 November 1989

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 89	85,333	87,970	2.5	13.1
	— 1984-85 prices			60,986	62,991	0.6	3.9
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 89	7,822	7,434	3.8	15.9
	— 1984-85 prices			6,240	5,911	2.6	18.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to Dec. 89	15,157	n.a.	n.a.	15.1
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	August 89	6,559	6,724	-1.5	10.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 89	14,145	14,642	0.0	3.5
New motor vehicle registrations		No.	Sept. 89	55,232	55,231	10.2	13.2
Dwelling unit approvals		"	"	12,394	12,440	5.5	-24.0
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,309	2,411	24.1	4.1
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 89	7,622	7,711	7.6	36.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,138	5,198	4.7	21.1
Manufacturers' sales		"	June qtr 89	34,261	34,196	3.4	14.6
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 89	70,922	n.a.	n.a.	12.0
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	Oct. 89	7,817.6	7,805.8	-0.1	4.6
Unemployment rate †		%	"	5.5	6.0	-0.1	-0.8
Participation rate †		"	"	63.1	63.3	-0.2	1.0
Job vacancies		'000	August 89	64.3	n.a.	-12.1	-2.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.5	n.a.	1.6	10.7
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 89	197.0	n.a.	2.3	8.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0		August 89	119.2	n.a.	-0.7	6.3
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		"	549.0	n.a.	0.1	6.9
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 89	4,610	5,054	9.3	24.6
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 89	501.10	n.a.	1.8	7.8
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Sept. 89	18.35	n.a.	0.4	4.6
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	13.65	n.a.	0.7	1.7
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Sept. 89	3,996	4,092	3.7	18.0
Imports of merchandise		"	"	-4,402	-4,726	1.5	-33.8
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-406	-634	25.7	-875.4
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-849	-923	20.6	-456.0
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,776	-2,016	7.8	-92.0
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 89	n.a.	112.8	-0.3	11.5
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 June 89	108,159	n.a.	3.7	19.8
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	140,906	n.a.	4.5	16.3
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
\$US	per \$A		Sept. 89	0.7721	n.a.	1.3	-2.6
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.6	n.a.	2.4	-0.1
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (estimated resident)	million		June 89	16.8	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000		August 89	161	181	-4.7	-17.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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